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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS--MEDICAL BRANCH
Galveston

CONFIDENTIAL

October 8, 1958

Robert C. Hockett, Associate Scientific Director
Tobacco Industry Research Committee
150 East Forty Second Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Hockett:

We are moving slowly with our experimental study of tobacco tar in the respiratory tract of white Pekin ducks. We have not found any tumors in the respiratory tract of any of our birds. I have not been impressed with the inflammatory reaction in the lining. There has occurred one significant point in this study. We had three ducks that were kept for eighteen months that showed cirrhosis of the liver. This cirrhosis is the same type of change that we have previously reported following the local application of methylcholanthrene to the skin of ducks. We are now completing some studies in which methylcholanthrene was put into the trachea and the birds developed cirrhosis of the liver. Ducks also developed cirrhosis of the liver following oral administration of methylcholanthrene.

We don't have but a few ducks given a tobacco tar and observed for a long period of time. Such an experiment is tedious and requires much time. I question whether it would be worthwhile to repeat except for the possibility of this liver lesion.

You may be interested in knowing that we have completed and had accepted for publication an article discussing the normal respiratory tract in the white Pekin duck. This was made possible by support from your group. This paper was accepted by Poultry Science in June, 1958, and is entitled The Respiratory System in the Normal White Pekin Duck."

We are completing a second study aided by the Tobacco Industry Research Committee in which we discuss the effect of methylcholanthrene on the respiratory tract. I hope that this work will be completed in three or four months.

We are now able to check some of the tissues with the new fluorescent microscope that we obtained through money supplied to us by your organization. We are trying to learn how to use this instrument and feel that it will be of help to us in this overall problem.

I wanted to let you know the general outline of what we are doing and this is why I have taken this opportunity to write you the above. With kind regards,

Yours truly,

/s./

R.H. Rigdon, M.D.
Professor of Pathology

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